

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
2011 Executive Order 29 Recommendation #4
Hampton Veterans Care Center Pre-Planning Study

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that a viable and appropriate site is selected for the construction of the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - DVS operates two veterans care centers – the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke and the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) in Richmond.
 - A 40-bed addition is planned for the SBVCC. Design work will commence this fall. Construction will likely begin in summer 2012 and be completed in March 2013.
 - The Governor, through the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), was authorized and has applied for grant funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to construct new care centers of up to 240 beds each in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.
 - DVS has requested \$52 million from the USDVA for each project. This amount would be matched by \$28 million in state funds for each project.
 - Virginia is on the USDVA grant funding priority list and could receive funding for the Hampton care center as early as FFY12.
 - A potential site for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center has been identified on the grounds of the Hampton VA Medical Center (Hampton VAMC).
 - DVS has also been advised that a site may be available on Fort Monroe, after it is turned over to the Commonwealth.
 - Pre-planning studies are used to evaluate such factors as site access; electrical, water, and other utility capacity; ability of the local soil/bedrock to support the building's foundation; vertical/horizontal scale of the building; etc.
 - The Department of General Services, on behalf of DVS, has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for architecture and engineering (A&E) services for the SBVCC addition. As part of the RFP, firms were also requested to provide bids to conduct a pre-planning study for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - A pre-planning study is required before the Commonwealth takes possession of either the Hampton VAMC or the Fort Monroe site.
 - The pre-planning study will determine the relative feasibility of either site to serve as the future home of the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center.
 - The study should be initiated as soon as possible in order to position the Commonwealth for receipt of the federal grant funds and move the project forward expeditiously.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor re-appropriate up to \$300,000 for DVS to use in FY12 for a pre-planning for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center.